

Ground Operations (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700451

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

The project is to perform on-going maintenance on 19 miles of shared use OHV trail (Trails 5E12A, 5E12B, 5E12C, 5E14, 5E17, 5E21A, 5E21C, 5E23, 5E24, 5E39, 5E41, and 5E43) in the Pilot Creek area (see Pilot Creek Trails Map). Work, to be performed by California Conservation Corps (CCC) hand crews, in the springtime includes fallen and hazard tree removal, brushing, and tread work related to safety or ease of passage, and in the fall, maintaining erosion control structures.

The project includes performing the required monitoring activities associated with meeting both the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines and the Habitat Management Program (HMP) requirements on 23 miles of motorized trail currently available for use in the Pilot Creek area. Monitoring activities include, but are not limited to, performing the Annual Trail Condition Evaluation and trail monitoring as outlined in the Soil Conservation Plan. The project also includes a monitoring and soil conservation standard compliance report and compliance action plan to be prepared by the OHV Specialist.

An itemized cost breakdown for both maintenance and monitoring is located in the attached Project Cost Estimate.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

This request for supplemental State funding is essential in support of base-level financing that would enable sustained use of the Mad River District's existing designated OHV trail system within the Pilot Creek area. Past State OHV funding has greatly assisted in covering the cost of implementing the Pilot Creek Trail Use Strategy resulting in large capital investments. Management efforts to date have allowed OHV trail opportunities to be sustained with planned expansion to meet the increasing demands primarily for the casual rider. Expansion of these base line opportunities, namely the completion of the trail use strategy, providing minor facilities and adding six more miles to the existing 23 miles of shared use trail, will be covered under other future funding sources or out-year cooperative agreements.

In addition, this 2009-2010 Ground Operations request is consistent with Forest Plan Direction and the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy Environmental Analysis (Refer to the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy Environmental Assessment (EA), Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) current and on file with the OHMVR Division). A variety of design features and monitoring needs are incorporated into the trail strategy to avoid, minimize, reduce, or eliminate the foreseeable effects of management activities.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

Situated on a 25,442-acre land-base, the Pilot Creek trail system provides 23 miles of motorized trail available for use. Also, in order to provide loop routes and access to adjacent public lands, 41 miles of additional existing system roads are available for recreational use within the area.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The Mad River RD is the southernmost District in the Six Rivers NF and offers quality OHV recreation opportunities for all types of wheeled OHVs with a variety of user difficulty levels in the designated Pilot Creek trail system. The system also provides a remote and non-crowded experience within a wide degree of diversity in vegetation types and elevation ranges. In addition, the District contains 645 miles of high-clearance vehicle roads and 12 additional miles of OHV trails dispersed across the District. The State Motorized Trail System on the District provides a primary route for the "California Back Country Discovery Trail." This 150-mile route features 18 Discovery Points of Interest throughout the District and connects with the Mendocino NF and the proposed Shasta Trinity NF segments.

The closest other OHV opportunity includes the Bureau of Land Management administered Samoa Dunes Recreation Area located on the coast near Eureka approximately 80 miles to the west, the Chappie – Shasta OHV Area outside of Redding 114 miles to the east, and the OHV opportunities located on the Upper Lake District, Mendocino NF, 207 miles to the south of the project area.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

(a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

Additional Documentation

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Six Rivers National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-18-G01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The project is to perform on-going maintenance on 19 miles of shared use OHV trail (Trails 5E12A, 5E12B, 5E12C, 5E14, 5E17, 5E21A, 5E21C, 5E23, 5E24, 5E39, 5E41, and 5E43) in the Pilot Creek area (see Pilot Creek Trails Map). Work, to be performed by California Conservation Corps (CCC) hand crews, in the springtime includes fallen and hazard tree removal, brushing, and tread work related to safety or ease of passage, and in the fall, maintaining erosion control structures.</p> <p>The project includes performing the required monitoring activities associated with meeting both the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines and the Habitat Management Program (HMP) requirements on 23 miles of motorized trail currently available for use in the Pilot Creek area. Monitoring activities include, but are not limited to, performing the Annual Trail Condition Evaluation and trail monitoring as outlined in the Soil Conservation Plan. The project also includes a monitoring and soil conservation standard compliance report and compliance action plan to be prepared by the OHV Specialist.</p> <p>An itemized cost breakdown for both maintenance and monitoring is located in the attached Project Cost Estimate.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-OHV Specialist	35.000	291.000	DAY	5,820.00	4,365.00	10,185.00
	Other-OHV Technician/FPO	35.000	253.000	DAY	6,325.00	2,530.00	8,855.00
	Other-Trails Engineer	5.000	313.000	DAY	1,565.00	0.00	1,565.00
	Other-Archaeologist	5.000	416.000	DAY	2,080.00	0.00	2,080.00
	Other-Biologist (Botany)	3.000	336.000	DAY	0.00	1,008.00	1,008.00
	Other-Biologist (Fisheries)	5.000	351.000	DAY	1,755.00	0.00	1,755.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Six Rivers National Forest
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

2/28/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Biologist (Wildlife)	5.000	325.000	DAY	1,625.00	0.00	1,625.00
	Other-Hydrologist/Soils	10.000	304.000	DAY	3,040.00	0.00	3,040.00
	Other-Resource Planner	4.000	335.000	DAY	0.00	1,340.00	1,340.00
	Other-Visitor Info Specialist	4.000	232.000	DAY	0.00	928.00	928.00
	Other-Forest Rec Officer	5.000	466.000	DAY	0.00	2,330.00	2,330.00
	Total for Staff				22,210.00	12,501.00	34,711.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Travelway Maintenance Notes : Travelway maintenance is to be performed by California Conservation Corps or contract crew. Maintenance consists of early season clearing and tread work related to safety and ease of passage on 19 miles of motorized trail.	1.000	14000.000	SET	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	Other-Travelway Maintenance Notes : Travelway maintenance is to be performed by California Conservation Corps or contract crew. Maintenance consists of late season repair of trail tread and erosion control structures on 16 miles of motorized trail.	1.000	7000.000	SET	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
	Other-Botany Inventory & Monitoring Surv	5.000	1454.000	DAY	7,270.00	0.00	7,270.00
	Total for Contracts				28,270.00	0.00	28,270.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Misc. M/S (signs, safety items, et	1.000	300.000	SET	300.00	0.00	300.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Vehicle (FOR/use)	1.000	500.000	SET	0.00	500.00	500.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Six Rivers National Forest
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

2/28/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs Notes : Indirect administration cost based on 10%.	1.000	5078.000	SET	0.00	5,078.00	5,078.00
Total Program Expenses					50,780.00	18,079.00	68,859.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					50,780.00	18,079.00	68,859.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					50,780.00	18,079.00	68,859.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Six Rivers National Forest
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

2/28/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	22,210.00	12,501.00	34,711.00	
2	Contracts	28,270.00	0.00	28,270.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	300.00	0.00	300.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	500.00	500.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	5,078.00	5,078.00	
Total Program Expenses		50,780.00	18,079.00	68,859.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		50,780.00	18,079.00	68,859.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		50,780.00	18,079.00	68,859.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

Impacts to an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern were identified in the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy EA, "Chapter III, Environmental Consequences, Alternative C", pages 26–37 current and on file with the OHMVR Division. The consequences are discussed with the assumption that the type of use, monitoring, design features and standards and guidelines, specified in "Chapter II", pages 16-19, and "Appendix A and B", pages 38-47 would be implemented as an integral part of the selected alternative. A modified version of "Alternative C" was the selected alternative (see Decision Notice and FONSI, pages 1-6 current and on file with the OHMVR Division). Biological Evaluations, Biological Assessments including maps of existing threatened and endangered species habitat, and Biological Opinions for fish and wildlife are available for review. Pertinent information regarding consultation with the National Marine Fishery Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service is included in the "Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan". To the best of our knowledge, there are no navigable waters within the Pilot Creek Watershed.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

Cumulative impacts are discussed in the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy EA, "Chapter III, Environmental Consequences, Alternative C", pages 26–37. Also, the benefits of applying trail maintenance are demonstrated by comparing the selected "Alternative C" with the "No Action Alternative A" described in this same section of the EA. Under "Chapter II, General Design Features and Standards and Guidelines", page 16, trail maintenance would be performed using hand tools and chainsaws. Heavy equipment would be used as needed on 4.47 miles of designated 4WD trails for implementation of drainage features. Applicable standard and guidelines in the Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Pacific Southwest Region Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California Best Management Practices would be applied for use of heavy equipment. Recent monitoring has indicated that no mechanical work is required at this time on the 4WD trails and was not incorporated into this 2009–2010 Ground Operations Cooperative Agreement submittal. Presently, there has been no unanticipated critical resource protection or public safety work identified. However, if additional work is found it will be handled accordingly using Forest Service allocated funds. It is anticipated that the widening of trails will be prevented through patrol, barrier placement, and well-identified maintained trails.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

The proposed activities will cause no significant effect to the environment (see Decision Notice and FONSI, pages 1-6). Issues pertaining to water quality / fish habitat were identified. The main factor, or environmental consequence considered relating to these issues was sediment delivery to the stream channel network and downstream fish habitat (refer to the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy EA, "Chapter III, Environmental Consequences", pages 26-29). Sediment generated by the selected alternative was found to be of low magnitude due to the minimization of motorized trails across stream channels, the re-routing where possible of existing trails that cross unstable or potentially unstable areas, and the absence of any trail construction or reconstruction across unstable or potentially unstable areas. The design features, maintenance, and monitoring associated with this alternative would further minimize the production of sediment.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There are no officially designated state scenic highways near or within view of the Pilot Creek area.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

N/A

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The Six Rivers National Forest Plan allows Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel on designated routes only.

Forest-wide, the Mad River Ranger District appears to have the best OHV opportunity with the least resource concerns and conflicts. Because of this the District wishes to manage this valuable resource so as to reduce user conflicts, resource damage, safety concerns and expand tourism in order to help the rural economic development of the community.

The District provides opportunities for all types of wheeled OHVs and provides a continuous loop type experience to the motorized public by maintaining shared use opportunities found mostly in the Pilot Creek area.

Situated on a 25,442-acre land-base, the Pilot Creek trail system provides a remote and non-crowded experience. Currently, there are 23 miles of motorized trail available for use in the Pilot Creek area. Also, in order to provide loop routes and access to adjacent public lands, 41 miles of existing system roads are available for recreational use within the area.

In addition, the District contains 645 miles of high-clearance vehicle roads and 12 additional miles of OHV trails dispersed across the District. The State Motorized Trail System on the District provides a 150-mile long primary route for the "California Back Country Discovery Trail".

Management efforts to date on the existing motorized trail system in the Pilot Creek area have allowed OHV trail opportunities to be sustained with planned expansion to meet the increasing demands primarily for the casual rider. Expansion of these base line opportunities, namely the completion of the Pilot Creek Trail Use Strategy will provide minor facilities and add six more miles to the existing 23 miles of shared use trail. Also, an expected low to moderate increase in motorized vehicle use is consistent with current Six Rivers National Forest Land Management Plan direction, and analyzed and incorporated by design into the Pilot Creek Trail Use Strategy Environmental Assessment (EA), Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

It is also worth mentioning that the Pilot Creek OHV emphasis area is far removed from designated wilderness areas which the District manage, namely the Mt. Lassic, Yolla Bolly – Middle Eel and North Fork Wildernesses. The Pilot Creek OHV area is located approximately 11 air miles from the closes Mt. Lassic Wilderness.

Therefore, there should be little to no potential for the project to cause indirect impacts, either by causing user groups to go elsewhere, causing significant impacts off-site, or significantly increasing use in the vicinity of the Project site.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy Environmental Assessment
Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for PC Trail Strategy](#)

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to complete the project would result in a deteriorated trail system causing resource damage and safety concerns. Without proper maintenance and monitoring the sustainability of the OHV recreation occurring in the Pilot Creek area would be lost.

Also, without the required maintenance and monitoring, there is potential to negatively impact cultural resources, special-status species and sensitive habitat. An example of these impacts would be the creation of user created re-routes around obstacles in the travelways such as fallen trees.

Further, maintaining and monitoring the Pilot Creek trail system is essential in minimizing the potential for trespass or identifying and correcting that which has occurred.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The project would sustain OHV opportunity by performing on-going maintenance on 19 miles of shared use OHV trail in the Pilot Creek area. Work to be performed in the springtime includes fallen and hazard tree removal, brushing, and tread work related to safety or ease of passage, and in the fall, maintaining erosion control structures.

Sign replacement would occur as needed in conjunction with trail maintenance.

The 23 mile multi use (4X4, ATV, Dirt Bikes) motorized trail system in the Pilot Creek area also provides varying levels of riding difficulty and opportunity (shared use) for Mountain Bike, horse and foot travel.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The Pilot Creek and surrounding area travelways have been the most popular motorized routes on the Forest for the last four decades. Local motorized recreational user groups participated and provided assistance in defining current and desired future conditions within the Pilot Creek watershed in terms of the trail system. Priorities identified by these user groups and others were considered in developing the alternatives analyzed in the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy Environmental Assessment.

During planning and preparation of the Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy EA efforts were made to solicit public involvement. A wide array of organizations, local government agencies, and individuals voiced support for the Pilot Creek Trail Use Strategy with this and prior grant proposals being the culmination of the project.

Notification requesting comments on this proposed project was placed on the Forest's website and mailed to 45 potentially interested individuals and/or groups.

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 1

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☒ 1 (1 point)
- ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

California Conservation Corps (CCCs)

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)
- ☒ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
- ☒ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)

- ☐ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

The Pilot Creek OHV trail system included environmental documentation backed by biological, physical, and cultural resource evaluations and analysis. The Pilot Creek Watershed Trail Use Strategy Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact is current and on file with the OHMVR Division.

In order to reduce or eliminate use-related impacts a variety of design features are incorporated into the Pilot Creek Trail Use Strategy. Some specific examples include the installation of water control features, hardening channel crossings, placement of artificial tread, retaining walls, barriers and barricades, minor trail re-routes for the protection of both natural and cultural resources, and tread repair. Also, the use of a LOP on one trail (Trail 5E17) and placement of a seasonal plank boardwalk across a stream for the protection of special-status species (wildlife).

Maintenance of these features and monitoring is critical and part of this project in order to protect resources.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 3

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☐ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Office paper.]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The project consists of performing trail maintenance and monitoring. Staff and trail crews mostly perform the work on foot, using hand tools (a sustainable technology for thousands of years). The exception to this is the use of vehicles to access the trailheads and the use of chainsaws to clear the trails of brush and fallen trees.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Hiking

☒ Fishing

☒ Other (Specify) [Hunting]

☒ Birding

☒ Equestrian trails

☐ Rock Climbing